



Connecticut Association of  
Boards of Education, Inc.

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Testimony  
Submitted to the  
Education Committee  
March 17, 2014

**SB 472 AN ACT CONCERNING STATE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION AND THE BUDGETS OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

**SB 473 AN ACT CONCERNING MAGNET SCHOOLS**

**SB 475 AN ACT CONCERNING AUTHORIZATION OF STATE GRANT COMMITMENTS FOR SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS AND CONCERNING CHANGES TO THE STATUTES CONCERNING SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS**

**SB 476 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAP**

**SB 477 AN ACT CONCERNING BOARDS OF EDUCATION**

**HB 5559 AN ACT CONCERNING A UNIFORM REGIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**HB 5560 AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATION MANDATE RELIEF**

**HB 5562 AN ACT CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**HB 5564 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL SAFETY**

**HB 5565 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT**

**HB 5567 AN ACT CONCERNING ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS**

Senator Stillman, Representative Fleischman, members of the Education Committee. My name is Richard Murray and I am a member of the Killingly Board of Education and the President the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). I appreciate the opportunity to address the following bills.

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) supports section 1 of **SB 472, An Act Concerning State Funding for Education and the Budgets for Boards of Education**. CABE has been working with school business officials and the State Department of Education (SDE) on implementing the Uniform Chart of Accounts. There is still more work to be done and all believe the best roll out would be at the beginning of the cycle of building local budgets.

It is unclear what the fiscal impact of section 4 would be on local districts, therefore CABE urges further review before action.

The section of the bill on local charters has CABE concerned with reimbursement of “reasonable” special education costs by boards of education.

CABE supports the continued prohibition on municipalities supplanting ECS and Alliance funds.

CABE applauds **SB 473, An Act Concerning Magnet Schools**, the idea of letting boards of education know as soon as possible that a student may not be enrolling in the local district, so as to best plan when drafting their local budgets. The unknown number of students who have chosen to avail themselves of the opportunity of

magnets is an “after the budget has passed disaster” for districts.

CABE supports **SB 475, An Act Concerning Authorization of State Grant Commitments for School Building Projects and Concerning Changes to the Statutes Concerning School Building Projects**. The opportunity of the Department of Administrative Services Commissioner to waive school safety infrastructure standards, with the understanding that one size does not fit all is vitally important in understanding the needs of school safety.

CABE opposes **SB 476, An Act Concerning the Academic Achievement Gap**, the requirement that all alliance districts provide full-day kindergarten and the increase in the amount of time a student may spend in bilingual education from 30 months to 60 months, unless the necessary resources are made available.

CABE supports **SB 477, An Act Concerning Boards of Education**, this bill, which provides flexibility as to the conditions and when a board of education may expunge an expulsion from a student's cumulative educational record.

CABE strongly supports **HB 5559, An Act Concerning a Uniform Regional School Calendar**. CABE is grateful for the opportunity to have had a representative serve on this task force. There was unanimous agreement to postpone the implementation by one year because many districts have already adopted their 15-16 calendar and also because of existing contracts.

CABE recommends an additional appointment from the SDE legal division be added to **HB 5560, An Act Concerning Education Mandate Relief**, for a complete review of local education mandates.

CABE strongly supports **HB 5562, An Act Concerning Special Education** because of the effort to provide more state support for the costs of special education. Killingly has recently contracted in house for a program for 46 students and we expect that number will grow next year. The tiered formula in Killingly will help at every level, but particularly, at the lowest tier. The commitment they have made to have a quality program and educate students in their home and district is something they are proud to have achieved. CABE strongly supports the removal of the Cap on special education funding.

In **HB 5564, An Act Concerning School Safety**, CABE questions whether the State Department of Education has the resources to make use of the additional data reporting required by local school districts in this bill.

CABE supports the change to include regional districts in defining the MBR in **HB 5565, An Act Concerning the Minimum Budget Requirement**. It will assist in the fair implementation of the use of the MBR. In regional arrangements, we want to see as much clarity in the process for all concerned.

CABE has concerns that the cost of this new mandate is undetermined in **HB 5567, An Act Concerning Alternative Schools**, therefore CABE urges you to reject the bill until a complete cost analysis can be completed.

We appreciate your attention to these issues.